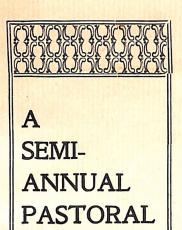
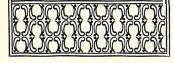
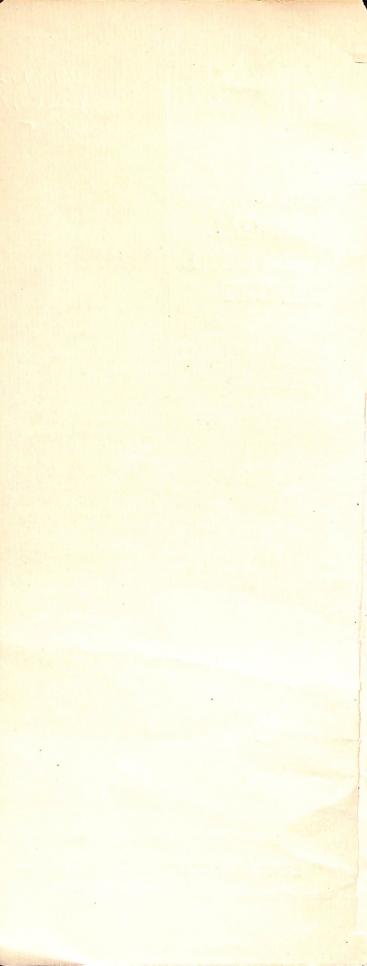
New York, Greenpoint





REPORT

LINCOLN HOLLISTER CASWELL



PASTOR'S REPORT

To the Second and Third Combined Quarterly
Conferences of the Greenpoint Methodist
Episcopal Tabernacle, held at the
Tabernacle November 9th,
1903, at 8 P. M.

DEAR BRETHREN:

Because of his newness in the work no report was made by the pastor at the first Quarterly Conference, and it is, therefore, to be expected that a somewhat

detailed report be made at this time.

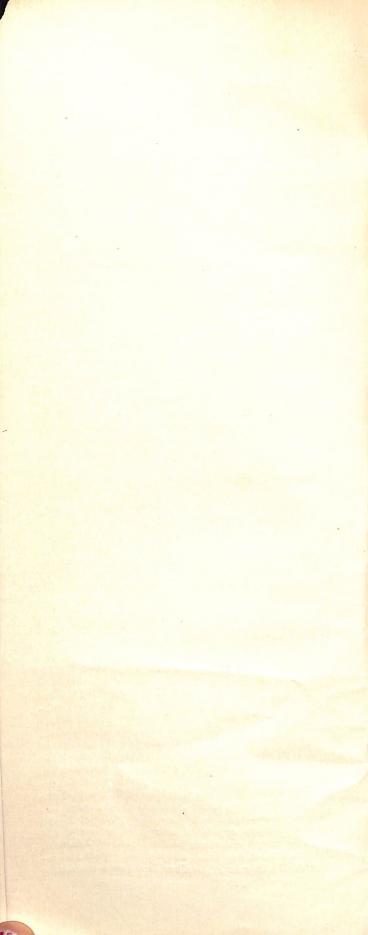
I am increasingly impressed that the warmness of the welcome accorded to me in the beginning was not simply a sentimental expression of custom growing out of a long habit of frequently welcoming the itinerant, but that it was the spontaneous greeting of the hearts of the people. Consequently it has not been difficult for me to enter heartily into the work of this parish, for no matter what the difficulty, what the set of adverse circumstances, what the lack of forces to man the field, there has been the encouragement of a cordial reception, which has continued with increasing meaning from the first hour unto this. take this first public occasion as an opportunity to thank my brethren of the Official Board for the way they have lightened my burden, endeavored in every way to encourage my heart, and made the taxing labors of this church full of interest, inspiration and hope. Scarcely a discouraging word has reached my ears from any quarter of this Board. If any have entertained private opinions of a pessimistic character they have carefully guarded them from the pastor's ears.

From the first inception of my work here it seemed

From the first inception of my work here it seemed certain that the initial work would be the replacing of the pipe organ which was destroyed.

The FNew at the time of the fire. The marvelous

The New at the time of the fire. and almost miraculous work of the year past, in which the church was re-Organ built and the sum of \$10,000 raised, of which all have been paid with the exception of about \$500 personal subscription and \$800 of the Ladies' Aid Society subscription, stood before me as an inspiration and before the church as a memorial of good works and heroism. It seems quite natural therefore that this generous people should hasten the finishing of the work so nobly carried on, and we were not surprised when plans began to materialize looking forward to the erection of an organ that would more than equal the one that served the church during the past generation. With an almost unanimous vote in the Official Board a committee was appointed to receive estimates and report its recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The trustees, in due time, adopted the report and instructed Brother E. A. Walker to act as a committee



of one to close the contract with Jesse Woodberry & Co. of Boston for a pipe organ according to the specifications already submitted at a cost of \$5,500. safe to say that the organ soon to be installed in the Tabernacle will rank as one of the finest in the city of New York, irrespective of size.

During the agitation concerning the organ matter it developed that there was considerable sentiment in

favor of making the organ a memorial to Rev. Charles C. Lasby, who passed The Lasby to his eternal reward at the heighth of Memorial his labors among this people. Person-

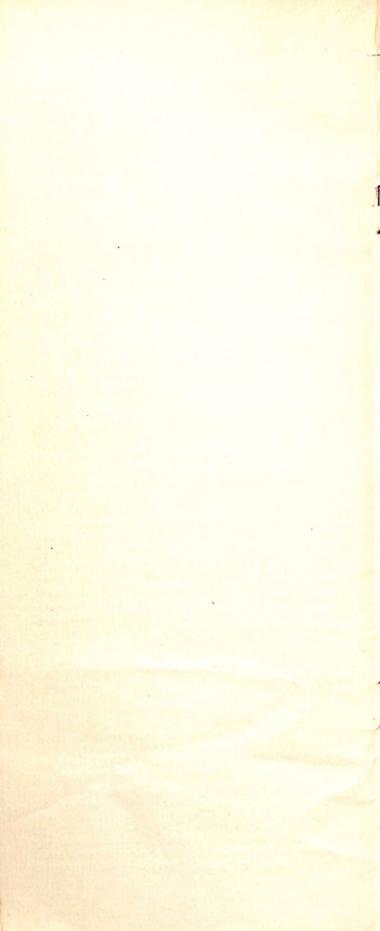
ally I have felt honored to be the successor of such a man as Dr. Lasby, and I have considered, as I have walked these streets, and stood in this pulpit, and kneeled in these homes, that I was treading a path made sacred by his life and sacrifice. While we are not willing to say that Dr. Lasby was a martyr to this cause and this church, yet we must say as much as he himself said when he exclaimed in his enthusiasm: "I will put the Tabernacle on its feet where it belongs, if I die in the attempt," and die he did, not only in the attempt, but in the successful outcome of the great He did no more than his obligaeffort that he made. tion, but in doing his work he went beyond his strength, and it happened to be at the Tabernacle. has seemed, therefore, a most fitting thing that we of the Tabernacle should commend the doing of the duty of life in the way Dr. Lasby did it to all our future pastors and to all our people, with the erection of an instrument and a monument that should be undying in its influence and vocal with duty's call. I feel it a high honor and a peculiar mission to be able to lead this people on to the finishing of a work such as this.

A souvenir has been prepared setting forth the desire of the Tabernacle with regard to making the organ a memorial to Dr. Lasby, and through the kindness of a member of our Board, Brother J. H. Felter, Jr., an artistic photo engraving of Dr. Lasby has been incorporated in the souvenir, making it complete and fitting in every way. Through the kindness of Mrs. Lasby a list of Dr. Lasby's friends has been prepared and to each has been sent this memorial souvenir, offering to them the opportunity of uniting with us in a material way so that all the churches which Dr. Lasby served may join in erecting this testimonial. A beginning has been made with the subscription for the organ fund and nearly \$3,500

have been already subscribed.

Some hope was entertained by Dr. Lasby and the brethren of

the Board throughout last year that
Andrew Carnegie might be prevailed
upon to extend his benevolences in Andrew this direction, knowing as they did that this particular phase of philan-Carnegie throphy was interesting to this great financier. Several communications were addressed to him without any apparent result. All hope of Mr. Carnegie's interest in the matter was entirely forsaken before the trustees



decided to let the contract. This work therefore was entered upon with the feeling that the whole burden must be shouldered bravely and carried on to success even at the cost of tremendous sacrifice. Facing such a spirit of resolution it is not strange that we are able to come to this present hour with one half the money subscribed and with good hopes of the balance by dedication day.

Negotiations have been under way with Bishop Goodsell in the hope that this illustrious former pastor,

who himself with his own hand built the original pipe organ which served the Tabernaele for years, might be the one to dedicate this new instrument.

It is now quite possible that Bishop Goodsell may be

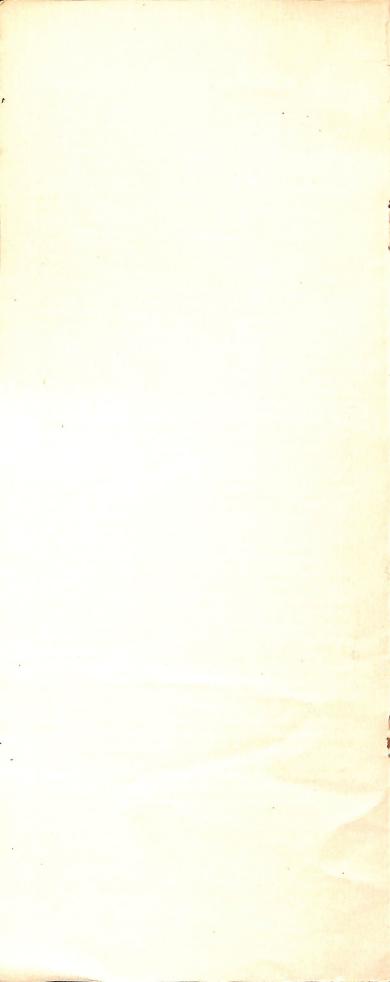
with us on that occasion.*

A note of discouragement was sounded when it became known that the finances for the first six months of the year showed a deficit of over

Current \$700. This is a serious matter in the best light that can be thrown upon it. However some things go with it of an

extenuating character. Brother Metz, our treasurer, tells me that the best half of the year is before us, that certain unforseen expenses were thrust into the first six months, and that all things considered he does not think the deficiency will amount to more than \$1000 by the end of the Conference year. Brother John Watson, our indefatigable financial secretary, has compiled certain figures from his records showing that we are as well off as, if not better than, in other recent years. His books show that during the past four years the annual deficiency has not fallen below \$900 and in one case has reached \$1200. This is comforting on the basis that "misery loves company," but it is rather cold comfort. There is no doubt that the present deficit will be met and wiped out but we shall not be satisfied with this. The habit The people have become so accusmust be broken. tomed to a deficiency collection that they reserve some of their subscription for the second "round up" in the latter part of the year. Our plan will be to arrange our budget and take our subscriptions for the new year before Conference and aim to obtain the required amount then, and whatever comes in later through the year will offset any shrinkage in the subscription. We must place the running expenses on a business basis. Now, if ever, when the mortgage has been paid, and no interest needs to drain our treasury, ought the Tabernacle to find it entirely possible to meet its expenses without running behind, and without asking the people for second and third collections for the original budget.

^{*}Since presenting the report Bishop Goodsell has indicated his inability to attend and Bishop Cyrus D. Foss, who has been assigned to the presidency of the New York East Conference for the ensuing year has been engaged to dedicate the organ.

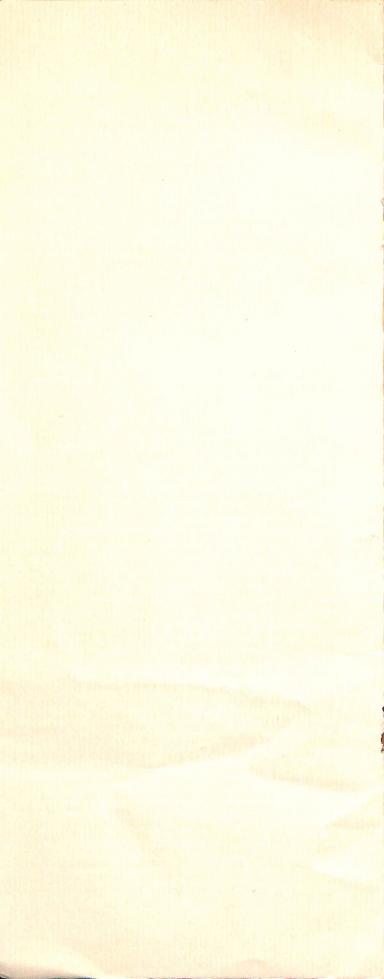


It became apparent in the beginning of this pastorate that one of the great obstacles in the work de-

manding immediate attention was the condition of the church records, mem-Church bership roll and the visiting list. Amidst the tremendous work which Records and Membership Dr. Lasby did in rebuilding the church and the raising of the subscription, with all the details carefully looked after, he did not, in any particular that I have been able to discover, neglect his pastorial duties. It was because of this faithful pastorial visitation on his part that I have been able to so quickly meet the members of this church in their homes, but in Dr. Lasby's brief ministry here, faithful as he was, he had no time for extended revision What memoranda he left has been of of the records. inestimable value to the present administration. After meeting as many of the people as were within the pastor's reach, using what addresses he had and what information he could get, from the beginning of May to the last of July, he entered upon his vacation. Three weeks of this period were devoted to a thorough scrutiny and revision of the church membership roll and visiting list, and as a result the pastor has removed 135 names from the roll, and according to the Discipline's provision has placed these names on a separate list entitled, "Removed Without Certificate."

Of the present net membership of 530 full members and 14 probationers there are probably no less than 225 who have partially or entirely

lost interest in the church, and either The Chief attend only occasionally or absent themselves altogether from the services.
With this condition of things facing us as our chief Problem problem, we addressed an eight-page letter entitled "A MIDSUMMER'S MESSAGE" to every member of the church whose address we could gain. In connection with this we asked for a reply bearing on their church relations. Following up this effort at reaching the delinquent members we sent out an appeal for a general Church Rally, which was held on the 20th of September. At the morning service no sermon was preached, but instead a worker's meeting was held and volunteers were called for to use the time of Sunday afternoon in visiting the list of persons numbering over 200 whose names had been put on the inactive list. In the evening a popular rally service was held, at which a large number were present who had responded to the personal call of the workers during the afternoon. During the week following September 20th the pastor aimed to meet personally every class meeting, society and organization in the church, and though he failed then, he has subsequently met all of the classes, the Official Board, Sunday School Board, Ladies Aid Society, the Cabinet of the Epworth League, and the Brotherhood, and has laid upon the burden of the needed spiritual awakening, his appeal to them meeting with hearty response. teachers of the Sunday School are cooperating by



securing necessary data concerning their scholars, of which a card index is being arranged. The Ladies of the Aid Society are offering their services to call at the direction of the pastor. The Epworth League the direction of the pastor. The Epworth League has appointed a committee to meet strangers before and after the church services, and is arranging a list of young men and women outside of the League and the Church, to whom it is appealing in social and The Church Army has prepared a spiritual ways. booklet in which not only the presence of the member is recorded but also the preacher, the text and the subject of the sermon are asked for, thus the children are manifesting a wholesome interest in the Church. The Brethren of the Church have responded to the call of the pastor and have divided the church auditorium into sections over which they have respective They are provided with a book of coupons through which information comes to the pastor concerning the stranger, or attendant not identified with the Church.

In order that this effort and these various plans might crystalize into some tangible and additional

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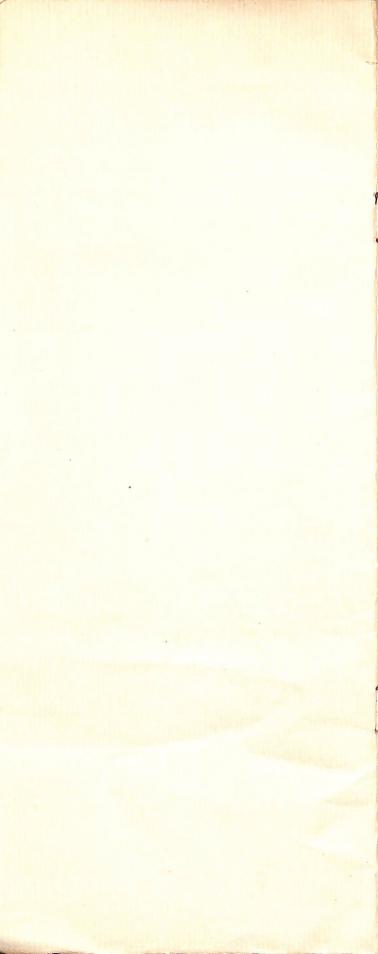
strength to the Tabernacle and to the kingdom of Christ, a letter was sent a Committee week ago last Saturday, October 31st, to the membership of the Church. The Hundred letter suggested that with proper co-

operation on the part of every society and individual member it was not without the bounds of reason to expect that 100 persons might be added to the Church before the first Sunday in January, 1904. mittee of 100 was called for to undertake this personal work campaign, which means a hundred souls influenced for Christ and the Church in less than 60 days. The great problem in the conditions surrounding the Tabernacle seems to be a vital lethergy with regard to personal responsibility. If ever a church needed absolute harmony and thorough cooperation, with every single member alert to personal duty and individual influence, that church is the Tabernacle.

During the past seven months the pastor has received 14 persons by letter, and 6 on probation,

It is true that making a total of 20. he has received 11 in full membership *Addition* from probation, but they cannot be and counted in the net addition this year, Subtraction for they were included last year. Over

against these 20 additions must be recorded the fact that 25 persons have asked for their letters and have This is the sympbeen dismissed to other churches. tom, appearing on the surface, which indicates the more radical disease at the heart, and it is the conviction of not only the pastor, but of many throughout the membership that the Tabernacle is in a crisis in Either we must let the memberits spiritual history. ship of the Church gradually fall off before the tide of those who are moving from us, without absorbing new members from the tide of population that is moving in, and thus gradually be decimated until



the Tabernacle is only a memory and its work only a monument; or we must from this moment on have a NEW AWAKENING, and manifest a tremendously increased and personal interest, TO THE POINT OF SACRIFICE AND SELF-DENIAL in bringing souls to Christ and the Church.

The crisis is surely on. With the wiping out of the forty years bonded indebtedness, with the rebuilding and refurnishing of the church, with

The crisis the installation of a new pipe organ such as will not be equalled in any Protestant church in this section of the city, the Tabernacle in temporal things will be in better shape to command the interests of this community and be commanded in the interests of the kingdom

of Christ as never in all its history.

The crisis is here.

I believe the awakening is at hand.

Let us pray for that spiritual anointing which shall smite every fear and self interest, shall unite us and enable us to do our personal duty as our divine

Lord shall give us to see it.

Brothers, if any of us have been possessed of the idea that membership in this Official Board was solely for the purpose of financeering the Church, let us revise our ideas and place first on the program of our official duties our obligation for the spiritual interests. In the time of great spiritual quickening money comes easily. The problem of our yearly shortage will only be solved when the power of the Spirit rules us and the passion for souls consumes us.

Let me thank you for the many evidences of united and earnest cooperation you have given me and let me assure you of my desire for your counsel and advice and of my willingness to spend and be

spent in the work of our common Lord.

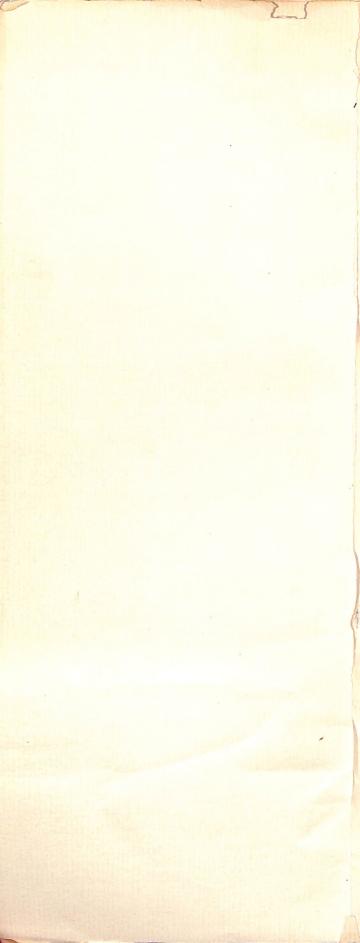


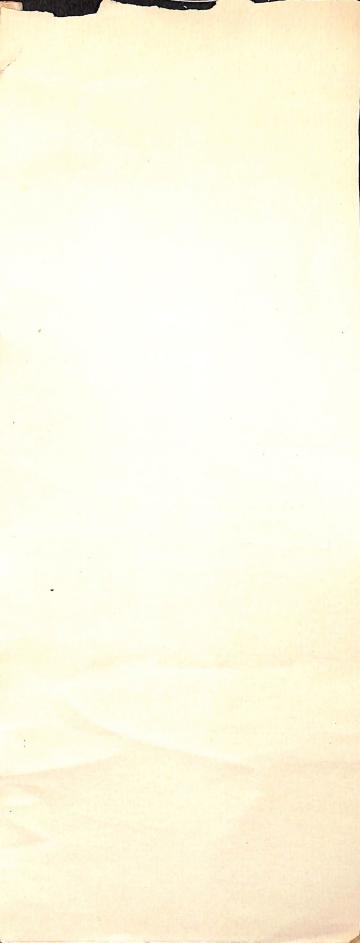
P.S. Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1903.—To bring this report up to the present date it should be added that on last Sunday, Dec. 6th, the pastor received at the communion service 20 persons by letter and 14 on probation, making a total of 34 at the one service.

This ought to greatly encourage the entire Tabernacle membership to enter the month of December with the determination that the January communion service shall witness the reception of enough more members to make the total figure up to the 100 which we asked for one month ago. The balance must be accomplished in 26 days.

Let us rise to the occasion. It is great enough to call forth our best endeavors.

L. H. C.





TABERNACLE TEXT

ISAIAH XLI:6

"They helped every one his neighbor; and every one said to his brother, 'Be of good courage.'"